

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEESTEEN, JR.
S/S-O - MR. THYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081720

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: EXPLORATION OF FORMULA FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS
TO KIM DONG-JO

REF: STATE 79914

1. ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR PARK KUN-WOO INFORMED US
MARCH 29 ON BASIS OF TWO TELEPHONE CALLS PREVIOUS EVENING
FROM AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK THAT CONSIDERATION NOW
BEING GIVEN TO KIM DONG-JO'S RESIGNATION FROM BLUE HOUSE
STAFF IN ORDER FOR HIM TO MAKE PERSONAL APPROACH TO
CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WITHOUT INVOLVING THE
PRESIDENCY.

2. PARK STATED KIM YONG-SHIK'S CONSULTATIONS ON THE
KIM DONG-JO QUESTION HAD MOVED FROM THE STAGE OF INFORMAL
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EXPLORATION TO FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITIES.
DONG-JO WAS "UNHAPPY" BUT WILLING TO BE HELPFUL.
DISCUSSING OPTIONS OF LETTERS OR TELEPHONE CALLS IN SAME
VEIN REPORTED IN SEOUL 2385, PARK REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT
COMMUNICATE GIST OF PRESENT KOREAN THINKING TO ETHICS
COMMITTEES AND SEEK FEEDBACK WHICH WOULD BE USEFUL TO
AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK DURING HIS LAST TWO DAYS OF

DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT IN SEOUL PRIOR TO FINAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK AND RETURN TO USA.

3. AFTER FIRST EXPLORING WHETHER PARK DID NOT WISH TO TALK DIRECTLY TO COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES, WE AGREED INFORMALLY

TO INQUIRE WHETHER EITHER SENATE OR HOUSE COMMITTEES HAD ANY KOMMKNTS THEY WISHED CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR KIM AT THIS DELICATE JUNCTURE. SEPARATELY WE THEN TALKED TO PETER WHITE AND DAN SWILLINGER OF HOUSE AND SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFFS RESPECTIVELY.

4. PETER WHITE FOUND NEWS OF ROKG CONSULTATIONS HIGHLY ENCOURAGING AND DID NOT RULE OUT EVENTUALLY UTILIZING SOME COMBINATION OF LETTERS AND DIRECT PHONE DIALOGUE. HOWEVER, MESSAGE WHICH WE HAVE RELAYED TO PARK AT WHITE'S REQUEST MERELY EXPRESSES ENCOURAGEMENT, STATES THAT THEY WOULD BE GLAD TO TALK TO KIM DONG-JO ON THE PHONE TO DISCUSS HOW TO MEET THEIR NEEDS, AND INDICATES THAT JAWORSKI WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR KIM AFTER HIS RETURN HERE NEXT WEEK.

5. IN DISCUSSION WITH DAN SWILLINGER IT BECAME APPARENT THAT ON SENATE SIDE THERE HAS THUS FAR BEEN LESS CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS. SWILLINGER ALSO WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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ENCOURAGED AT ROKG EFFORTS TO RESPOND, BUT SAID FACE TO FACE DISCUSSION WITH KIM DON-JO BY ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF REMAINED MINIMUM POSITION, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES IN EXTREMIS. HE SUGGESTED THIRD COUNTRY VENUE FOR "VOLUNTARY" MEETING. WE NOTED ACUTE PROBLEM FOR ROKG IF ANY SOLUTION APPEARED TO DEROGATE ROK SOVEREIGNTY AND THEREBY SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN THESIS IN THIRD WORLD THAT ROK IS NOT REALLY SOVERIGN NATION BUT ONLY PUPPET OF USG.

6. IN DISCUSSION WITH BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE SIDE IT

WAS AGREED THAT, RATHER THAN COMMENT ON SPECIFICS OF ROKG IDEAS AT THIS JUNCTURE, RESPONSE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT COMMITTEES REQUIRED MINIMUM OF THREE COMPONENTS TO ANY SOLUTION: A) DIRECT DIALOGUE; B) USABILITY OF INFORMATION IN DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS; AND C) TRUTHFUL SUBSTANCE. COUNSELOR PARK WILL PROVIDE THESE COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR KIM BY PHONE AT ABOUT 1000 THURSDAY SEOUL TIME (WEDNESDAY NIGHT IN WASHINGTON).

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NOT CONVEYED TO PARK, IT DOES SEEM CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT BASED ON DIRECT TELEPHONE DIALOGUE AND LETTERS COULD WORK OUT, BUT CLEARLY NOT A SIMPLE EITHER/OR, ONE-SHOT ARRANGEMENT. YOU MAY WISH TO TRY TO EXPAND ROK THINKING AS FAR TOWARD DIRECT FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSION AS POSSIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, A DIRECT AND RATHER FULL PHONE DIALOGUE WOULD BE A MINIMUM TO EXPLORE ALLEGATIONS AND GET A FULL

RESPONSE, BUT BY ITSELF WOULD NOT PROVIDE INFORMATION IN A FORM USABLE BY THE COMMITTEE. SUCH A DIALOGUE AT MINIMUM WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A WRITTEN AND NOTARIZED STATEMENT EMBODYING SUBSTANCE OF POINTS DEVELOPED.

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8. UTILIZING SEOUL 2519, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE CONTACTED CONGRESSMAN STAN LUNDINE AND POINTED OUT KOREAN CONCERNS AND THE PROSPECT THAT THE PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL LETTER MIGHT UNDERCUT THE DESIRED COMMUNICATION WITH KIM DONG-JO. LUNDINE SEEMED UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED AND WE BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THE LETTER WILL BE AT LEAST DELAYED. HOLBROOKE WILL ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH ERTEL AND MIKVA, THE OTHER TWO SPONSORS OF THE LETTER PROPOSAL. YOU MAY CONFIDENTIALLY INFORM FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE AGAIN RAISES THE SUBJECT THAT WE HAVE CONVEYED ROKG CONCERNS TO APPROPRIATE PEOPLE AND IT SEEMS LESS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE SUCH A LETTER AT THIS TIME. COOPER

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